

October 2, 2008 Minutes: Facilitation of Community Choices Committee

The Committee met in the Town Room, Town Hall. The special meeting was called to order at 9:08 AM

Members Present: Stan Gawle, Katherine Vorwerk Feldman, Richard Spurgin, Alison Donta- Venman via phone, Martha Hanner, Bob Saul, Irvin Rhodes and Joan Golowich

Members Absent: Gerald Jolly, Isaac Ben-Ezra

Others Present : John Musante , Stephanie O’Keeffe and Andy Steinberg

Minutes of Sept.18, 2008: On a motion by Richard Spurgin and a second by Joan Golowich, the minutes were approved as submitted.

Minutes of Sept. 25th 2008: On a motion by Bob Saul and a second by Richard Spurgin, the minutes were adopted as submitted.

Minutes of Sept. 29th 2008: Martha Hanner suggested the following amendment to the minutes as part of slide 7: Property taxes comprise approximately 57% of Amherst’s revenue. A 4% increase in the property tax levy translates into a 2.2% increase in the overall revenue. On a motion by Bob Saul and a second by Joan Golowich, the minutes were adopted as amended.

Calendar: Joan Golowich will be the gate keeper for the calendar on the website

On line responses: Alison Donta Venman reported that there were 80 on line questionnaire responses to date.

Library Display: The library display is up and running at Jones Library.

FAQ: Bob Saul requested that Richard Spurgin share the 5 questions that he has done to date prior to tonight’s meeting.

Meeting Rules: There was considerable discussion about the ground rules for the meeting. The following were agreed to: Martha will moderate and issue rules; speakers will be asked to identify themselves and no time limit will be used; one question or a comment per person unless all people have spoken; and Richard Spurgin will moderate the question and answer part of the session.

Stan Gawle asked if all presentation meetings would be posted. John Musante responded that this evening’s was and that all others would be.

Questionnaire deadline: Deadline for the questionnaires to be returned or filled out on the web will be Nov. 4th, 2008. The central repository for hard copy questionnaires will be at the Town Manager's office. Stephanie O'Keeffe raised the question of data entry for the hard copy questionnaires. John Musante replied that an intern would do those entries. Alison Donta Venman volunteered to train the intern.

Meeting adjourned at 10:00AM.